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33 Bent Tree Drive
Centerville, MA
02632
September 15, 1999

FDA
Rockville,
Maryland

Docket Nos. - 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0197

Dear Madam or Sir,

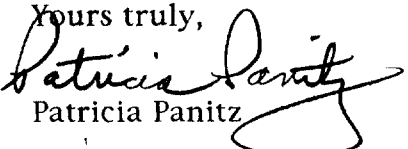
I am writing because the FDA has requested input about how best to reduce the incidence of salmonella in eggs. In a nutshell, the best way is to ban the practice of the forced molting of laying hens.

The extremely cruel system of forced molting involves intentionally depriving hens of food and water so that their systems are shocked into one more egg production cycle before they are killed. Many animals die and the ones left living have severely compromised immune systems which make them easy prey for pathogens like salmonella.

Rather than tolerating forced molting, or trying to find ways to make it work, the FDA would be well advised to ban this horrific system entirely and deal with the salmonella problem at its source. Halfway measures like regulating egg refrigeration temperatures and putting warning labels on egg cartons are insufficient.


Forced molting is a primary cause of infectious disease in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. Since the FDA has the authority to ban farming practices that harm human health, it should move forward aggressively to ban this odious practice. FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to enact a ban, and it should act on this petition immediately.

Yours truly,


Patricia Panitz

96P-0418

C 658



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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C658

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C659
96P-0418/C658